

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 6, 2016 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order shortly after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded members to turn off/silence their mobile devices and if they needed to take calls, to please do so outside the meeting room. Lorie called for a moment of silence for those we've lost and the military working to keep us safe, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed 25 members, including new member and first-time meeting attendee, Pam Thurman. She also welcomed 2 guests, member Bill Hoyt's friend, Margaret Walker, and Dr. Ken Fincher, the program speaker.

OLD BUSINESS Nancy Crosby, District V vice president, installed Steve Howes and Liz Bowers as directors at large. Due to an oversight, they were not installed at the December meeting.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie reported that 2015 was an "up and down year" for the chapter. The year included everything from the passing of President Don Binder, a definite chapter loss, to NARFE's successful lobbying to fix the Medicare "loophole," which would have cost many members a significant increase in premiums. Lorie also noted the 2 successful fundraisers the chapter had for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – both in November. Looking ahead, the NARFE "strategic planning" initiative will remain at the forefront. Lorie encouraged all members to at least scan through the report, which is on NARFE's website, www.narfe.org. She also encouraged members to continue to stay informed by reading the monthly *narfe* magazine. For example, in the January issue, page 16, there is information about the new proof-of-insurance reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act.
- Lorie asked if any members were having issues as a result of the OPM data breach. Two issues were discussed – spouses receiving letters from OPM and whether they are offered the same assistance as the employee/retiree; and, women receiving letters addressed to them in their maiden names, even if they've not used that name in many years (e.g., a 90-year-old retiree who has not used her maiden name in more than 70 years). Lorie said we'd forward both of these questions/issues to NARFE.
- Lorie also asked if anyone was dealing with issues as a result of FEHBP Open Season. No members surfaced issues.
- For Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor, Lorie reported that the chapter gave 18, one-year complimentary memberships to individuals who had stopped by the chapter's NARFE tables/completed an M-2 card with contact information at the recent FEHBP health fairs.
- The 34th NARFE National Convention will be at the Grand Sierra Hotel, Reno, August 28 to September 1. Registration and other information will be posted on NARFE's website starting in January, including the "committee assignment" form for those wanting to serve on a committee, e.g., ballots and tellers, sergeants at arms, bylaws, etc. **[Note: The assignment form needs to be submitted to the chapter president for approval. It then goes to our Washington federation president, Rich Wilson, for approval before being forwarded to our Region IX vice president, Lanny Ross, for his approval. If the application is approved at all 3 levels, it then goes to NARFE for consideration.]**
- Service Office – Lorie said Dana Kranz is a new volunteer, replacing long-time volunteer Dorothy Smith who retired in December. Lorie also asked for a volunteer to replace her as a volunteer. She said she will remain as service officer but needs a volunteer to fill her space the first Tuesday, monthly. Contact Lorie for more information, if you can volunteer and/or know

someone who might be interested. **[Reminder: the Service Office is open Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.]**

1st Vice President *Pat Turner*. No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Larry reported that the chapter's website had been "hijacked" recently by a "phisher." He highlighted what happened, what was involved and the steps taken to resolve the issue. All is now working OK.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder*.

- The January/February chapter newsletter was mailed, sent via email and posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. All at the meeting indicated they'd received their newsletter.
- Mary reminded members to ensure we have current mailing and email addresses.
- NARFE's 2016/2017 Calendar Contest – Mary reminded members to consider submitting photos. The theme is "Made in America." Contest deadline is March 15.
- Sunshine – Mary asked members to let her know about members who may need cards, whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family member, etc. Johanna reported that she'd been in contact with member James Stover. He and his wife, who is ill, are now at the Canyon Lakes Manor. James asked Johanna to pass along his regards to those members who know him.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of November 30, \$11,630.71. December receipts were \$474.55 and disbursements, \$1,306.49, leaving a balance of \$10,528.77. Projected obligations are \$1,741.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,787.77. Nancy explained that the chapter paid \$720 (\$40/each) for 18 free memberships in December. However, the actual cost to the chapter will only be \$180 as the federation will reimburse the chapter \$20 and NARFE \$10 for each of the 18 memberships. While having 18 new members is positive, Nancy said the real challenge will be retaining these new members as most are current federal employees and therefore not able to attend meetings.
- Liz Bowers and Faye Vlieger volunteered to complete an audit of the chapter's 2015 financial records. Nancy will coordinate setting up a meeting with them.
- **Monies collected at the January meeting** Luncheon, \$360; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$78; NARFE-PAC, \$32; Newsletter, \$18; 50/50 Raffle, \$24/\$12 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby*.

- Nancy updated members on the 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17:
 - She and Mary are updating the convention forms. They'll be posted on the WSFC website soon, www.narfewa.net.
 - For members who might be interested in running for a federation office, the application form is on the federation website.
 - Volunteers are still needed. In the January/February chapter newsletter, Nancy highlighted the areas where she needs help. Contact Nancy for more information, if you can volunteer, etc.
- The next WSFC Executive Board meeting is Thursday, February 11, in Tacoma. Nancy and Mary Binder, *Federation Reporter*, editor, are planning to attend. Nancy asked members to let either of them know if there is something they want brought to the board.
- Weather permitting Nancy will visit the Walla Walla chapter January 7 to install its chapter's officers; weather precluded her from doing that in December. She did visit the Yakima chapter in December and installed that chapter's officers.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Liz Bowers*. Steve canvassed members regarding interest in a guided tour of the McNary Wildlife Refuge in late February/early March. Tour would take 2-3 hours and would require getting in/out of a 12-passenger van. Based on the show of hands, Steve will continue to pursue; Lorie will create a sign-up sheet for the February chapter meeting.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke*.

- The chapter raised more than \$2,000 at its November fundraisers – the chapter's white elephant auction at its November 4 chapter meeting and at the coat check fundraiser, November 14, Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Bill sent \$2,231 to the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, leaving a balance of

\$79 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**

- Bill asked if members had been receiving requests and/or donation acknowledgements from a source/sources other than the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago. One member indicated she had. Bill said that this is an issue with at least some members. NARFE has an agreement with the Alzheimer's Association – those donating to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund should not be receiving solicitations from other Alzheimer's Association chapters/entities. **[Note: Let Bill know if this is an issue and/or bring him the solicitations/copies of the solicitations.]**
- Bill reported that the December *Smithsonian Magazine* has an article on a new “revolutionary tool for tackling Alzheimer's disease ... Nicknamed ‘Alzheimer's in a dish,’ the new technique features colonies of genetically manipulated human brain cells that grow in three dimensions in a gooey gel. As the days pass, the cells start displaying the two most salient hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease: plaques and tangles ...” **[For the full article, go to: [www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/rudolph-tanzi-doo-yeon-kim-ingenuity-awards-180957201/.](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/rudolph-tanzi-doo-yeon-kim-ingenuity-awards-180957201/)]**
- Bill has pins for donations of at least \$20. All donations welcome.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Total received at chapter meetings in 2015 was \$1,061.
- With national elections in 2016, PAC dollars “need to keep flowing.”

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Mary reiterated what President Lorie said regarding NARFE's *Strategic Plan*, December 2015. Even if members do not want to read the entire report, Mary recommended they at least read the 3-page summary. She also said she highlighted some key points from the report in the chapter's current newsletter. This subject will be on the agenda at both the May WSFC convention and NARFE's national convention.
- Mary asked how many members were receiving NARFE's daily electronic “Media Monitoring.” As very few were receiving this, Mary highlighted a sample of articles in today's report. She said if there is nothing of interest to a member, it is easy to just delete a file. It is also easy to sign up for this tool, which is another way to stay connected with NARFE and topics of interest to both current and retired federal employees. Details are on the NARFE website.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* See report under President Lorie.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Drawings Free lunch, Pam Thurman; 50/50, \$12, Bill Hoyt (donated to NARFE-PAC).

January Birthdays Bill Darke; Betty Maupin; Pam Thurman; Norma VanPatten. Faye Vlieger led attendees in “Happy Birthday.”

January Anniversaries None reported.

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, February 9, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 3, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

February Chapter Meeting Program Colin Fogarty, executive director, Confluence, to provide background and an update on Celilo Falls along with general information on Confluence, “a donor-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education.” (POC: *Mary Binder*)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

Program Dr. Ken Fincher, WSU assistant vice chancellor of Advancement & Community Engagement, provided an update on WSU and its programs, including the new wine science center. He has been in the Tri-Cities/at WSU for about a year and a half. Dr. Fincher's job, in simpler terms, is “fundraising and friendship building.” After providing a brief history of WSU Tri-Cities, he said that the university has a mission to “advance, extend and apply knowledge.” He explained that the university is targeting offering a “poly-technical experience,” that is, a practical experience for

students that also provides them opportunities to contribute to the community. WSU Tri-Cities provides students a “pedagogical approach” to learning, that is, “hands on learning.” A goal is to ensure students are “career ready” when they graduate. At the university, the arts/humanities are also emphasized, so “STEAM” vs. just “STEM.”

The new wine science center is now the world’s premier such center and is attracting attention worldwide. As a result, Dr. Fincher said there is a need for residence halls on campus. A public/private partnership is being pursued. Other future projects include a student center – being funded by the students; a hotel/convention center that could support internships for those in the hospitality degree program; a building for the Hanford History Project; and, an expansion of the sports fields.

As a dad with a son now at the university, Dr. Fincher said WSU Tri-Cities is a safe campus; that it is a Tier 1, PAC 12 university; that a graduate’s “diploma equity” is up, that is, it means something; and, that the local campus is a good example of “the little engine that could.” While part of WSU Pullman, the latter does not support the Tri-Cities campus. With the support of local businesses and community members, along with state support, WSU Tri-Cities has “all the ingredients to be a very successful poly-technical-oriented university.” (POC: *Mary Binder*)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary